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## **News Release**

# **2018 Iowa FFA Proficiency Award Results**

ANKENY, Iowa--100% of FFA members have proficiencies as part of the agricultural program and the FFA. These proficiencies range in the areas of Agricultural Communications to Home and/or Community Development and from Diversified Agricultural Production to Swine Production. Proficiency Award winners have excelled in their Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) Programs. These awards encourage members to develop specialized skills that will apply toward a future career.

State winners will advance to the National FFA competition where they will compete against winners from the other State FFA Associations. The four national finalists that are selected from each area will be recognized at the National FFA Convention and Expo in October.

The Iowa FFA Proficiency Awards program is possible with support from the many partners of the Iowa FFA Foundation. The specific partner for each area is identified in our summary of results.

Listed below are the results from the 2018 Iowa Proficiency Awards program.

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## **About Iowa FFA Association**

The Iowa FFA Association is a youth organization of over 15,200 student members as part of 235 local FFA chapters across Iowa. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. The Iowa FFA Association was organized by delegates from 23 schools at Iowa State College on May 17, 1929 and is an integral part of public instruction in agriculture. The Iowa Department of Education provides leadership and helps set direction for FFA as a service to local agricultural education programs. For more, visit the Iowa FFA Association online at [IowaFFA.com](http://IowaFFA.com), on Facebook and Twitter.

## Iowa FFA Association - 2

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**Proficiency Area: Agricultural Communications**

State Winner: Riley Smith

FFA Chapter: Griswold FFA Chapter, Griswold

Description: In the area of Agricultural Communications, sponsored by the Iowa Farmer Today, the winner is Riley Smith of the Griswold FFA Chapter at Griswold. Smith spent many hours of work experience at KJAN Radio in Atlantic, Iowa. Through this, he has learned how to present broadcasts on local and other-area news. Smith has also mentored other new workers at the station. In the future, Smith hopes to pursue a career in agricultural broadcasting.

The second place winner is Alec Schoof of the South O'Brien FFA Chapter at Paullina.

The sponsor of the Agricultural Communications Proficiency Award is Iowa Farmer Today.

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**Proficiency Area: Agricultural Education**

State Winner: Heather Cernek

FFA Chapter: DeWitt Central FFA Chapter, DeWitt

Description: The winner of the Agricultural Education area sponsored by Iowa State University Agricultural Education and Studies is Heather Cernek of the DeWitt Central FFA chapter. Cernek has invested over 660 hours in her SAE project. She is passionate about promoting FFA through the chapter website and member newsletters. She has served on many FFA committees including Farm Safety Day, presenting at the Iowa Youth Institute on sustainable agriculture, and assisting at the county fair.

The second place winner is Jenna Steffen of the Waverly-Shell Rock FFA Chapter at Waverly.

The sponsor of the Agricultural Education Proficiency Award is the Department of Agricultural Education and Studies at Iowa State University.

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**Proficiency Area: Agricultural Mechanics Design and Fabrication**

State Winner: Levi Metzger

FFA Chapter: West Lyon FFA Chapter, West Lyon

Description: Levi Metzger of the West Lyon FFA Chapter is the winner of the area of Agricultural Mechanics Design and Fabrication sponsored by CF Industries. Metzger invested 900 hours in development and installation of electrical and HVAC systems. Metzger plans to attend South Dakota State University.

The second place winner is Keaton Minnick of the Central Trail FFA Chapter at Leon.

The sponsor of the Agricultural Mechanics Design and Fabrication Proficiency Award is CF Industries.

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**Proficiency Area: Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance - Entrepreneurship**

State Winner: Zach Oolman

FFA Chapter: Unity Christian FFA Chapter, Orange City

Description: In the area of Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance – Entrepreneurship, sponsored by Van Wall Equipment, the winner is Zach Oolman of the Unity Christian FFA Chapter. Oolman buys and restores fuel tanks to sell. In the past two years, he has completed 20 tanks for resale. He sands the tanks, repairs the fuel pumps and repaints the tanks. Oolman then advertises the tanks for sale.

The second place winner in this category is Nathan Casady of the West Marshall FFA Chapter at State Center.

The sponsor of the Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance - Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award is Van Wall.

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### **Iowa FFA Association - 3**

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**Proficiency Area: Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance - Placement**

State Winner: Ryley Rieken

FFA Chapter: AGWSR FFA Chapter, Ackley

Description: The winner in the area of Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance - Placement, sponsored by Kuhn North America, Inc., is Ryley Rieken of the AGWSR chapter at Ackley. Rieken has developed agricultural mechanic skills and experience in his family farm and Ag Machinery Repair of Cleves, Iowa. Rieken was able to develop relationships with co-workers and clients; clean and prepare equipment; restock inventory and maintain accurate records. He has over 1,100 hours in this area. Ryley is pursuing a degree in Agricultural Studies at Iowa State University.

The second place winner is Zachary Henry from the Montezuma FFA chapter at Montezuma.

The sponsor of the Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance - Placement Proficiency Award is Kuhn North America, Inc.

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**Proficiency Area: Agricultural Processing**

State Winner: Grace Kerr

FFA Chapter: North Fayette Valley FFA Chapter, West Union

Description: Grace Kerr of North Fayette Valley is the winner in the area of Agricultural Processing sponsored by Iowa Corn. Kerr is a valued employee of Fassbinder Apiaries. Kerr has invested over 700 hours in managing and operating a bee farm, where she gained skills in inventory management and risk evaluation. After graduating this year, she plans to continue her education at college while studying elementary education.

The sponsor of the Agricultural Processing Proficiency Award is Iowa Corn.

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**Proficiency Area: Agricultural Sales - Entrepreneurship**

State Winner: Luke Fevold

FFA Chapter: Nevada FFA Chapter, Nevada

Description: In the area of Agricultural Sales - Entrepreneurship, sponsored by WinField United, the winner is Luke Fevold of the Nevada FFA chapter. Fevold began his own business, Fevold Land Landscaping Boulders by removing rocks from farmers' fields and ditches and selling them to the local businesses and homeowners. Fevold learned how to effectively advertise his business and market to various customers, all while solving a problem for farmers. Fevold is graduating in the spring and is considering his college options.

The second place winner in the area of Agricultural Sales Entrepreneurship is Emma Vacek from the Midland FFA Chapter at Wyoming.

The sponsor of the Agricultural Sales - Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award is WinField United.

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**Proficiency Area: Agricultural Sales - Placement**

State Winner: Daniel Zeien

FFA Chapter: LaPorte-Dysart FFA Chapter, LaPorte City

Description: The winner in the area of Agricultural Sales - Placement, sponsored by Dakin Ag Equipment and Sukup, is Daniel Zeien of the LaPorte-Dysart FFA Chapter. Zeien works two agricultural sales jobs, and between them, he has put in over 1700 hours in the last two years. He has demonstrated exceptional customer service, product knowledge in the agriculture industry and implemented proper inventory practices. After graduation, Daniel plans to attend Hawkeye Community College to study agronomy.

The second place winner in the area of Agricultural Sales - Placement is Brooke Gifford from the Newton FFA Chapter at Newton.

The sponsor of the Agricultural Sales - Placement Proficiency Award is Dakin Ag Equipment and Sukup.

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## **Iowa FFA Association - 4**

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### **Proficiency Area: Agricultural Services**

State Winner: Brady Barkela

FFA Chapter: West Fork FFA Chapter, Sheffield

Description: In the area of agricultural services, sponsored by Landus Cooperative is Brady Barkela of the West Fork FFA. Barkela has worked almost 400 hours at Jake Walters Fencing where he has learned how to design and construct fencing for different purposes. Jake has developed customer service skills along with communication and equipment maintenance skills.

The second place winner in the area of Agricultural Services is Maddie Lahr of the Maquoketa Valley FFA Chapter at Delhi.

The sponsor of the Agricultural Services Proficiency Award is Landus Cooperative.

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### **Proficiency Area: Agriscience Research - Animal Systems**

State Winner: Ty Schoelerman

School: Spencer FFA Chapter

Description: Ty Schoelerman of the Spencer FFA Chapter is the winner in the area of Agriscience Research- Animal Systems. Schoelerman has successfully completed independent research in several areas including the effects of barometric pressure on bovine parturition, effects of feeding days upon starch digestibility in feedlot cattle, and housing effects upon manure nutrient density. Scholerman will graduate high school in 2019 and plans attend college and major in pre-vet science.

The second place winner in the area of Agriscience Reseach – Animal Systems is Hannah Heit from the New Hampton FFA Chapter.

The sponsor of the Agriscience Research – Animal Systems Proficiency Award is Animal Health International.

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### **Proficiency Area: Agriscience Research – Integrated Systems**

State Winner: Shelby Westhoff

FFA Chapter: Maquoketa Valley FFA Chapter, Delhi

Description: The winner in the area of Agriscience Research-Integrated Systems, Food Products and Processing is Shelby Westhoff of the Maquoketa Valley FFA Chapter at Delhi. Westhoff has spent time researching microbial deactivation in milk via ultraviolet light for alternate food processing. She has devoted over 200 hours to her research of bacterial inhibition in unpasteurized bovine milk. Westhoff has spent time formulating hypotheses, performing experiments and tests, and collecting data regarding her research.

The sponsor of the Agriscience Research – Integrated Systems is Milt Luckstead Sr.

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### **Proficiency Area: Agriscience Research – Plant Systems**

State Winner: Mason Burlage

School: Maquoketa Valley FFA Chapter, Delhi

Description: Mason Burlage of the Maquoketa Valley Chapter at Delhi is the winner in the area of Agriscience Research- Plant Science. Burlage has researched the effects of the white mold pathogen on solar plants and sudden death syndrome through cover crops. He has dedicated 281 hours to his research and plans to continue in the future all the while studying the effects and ways to prevent these dangerous plant diseases.

The sponsor of the Agriscience Research – Plant Systems Proficiency Award is the MinnTex Citrus Chapter.

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**Iowa FFA Association - 5**

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**Proficiency Area: Beef Production - Entrepreneurship**

State Winner: Lauren Mosher

FFA Chapter: Grundy Center FFA Chapter

Description: The winner in the area of Beef Production Entrepreneurship sponsored by the Iowa Cattlemen's Foundation, is Lauren Mosher of the Grundy Center FFA Chapter. Mosher has 11 cows in her purebred Angus herd and has started her own seed stock operation. Over the years her SAE has utilized artificial insemination, pasture management, and bull selection based on their Expected Progeny Differences. Upon high school graduation Mosher plans to start a career in professional public speaking within the beef industry.

The runner up is Sadie Graham of the Brokaw FFA chapter at Clarinda.

The sponsor of the Beef Production-Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award is Iowa Cattlemen's Foundation.

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**Proficiency Area: Beef Production - Placement**

State Winner: Danielle Stock

FFA Chapter: Little Switzerland FFA Chapter, Waukon

Description: Danielle Stock of the Little Switzerland FFA Chapter at Waukon is the winner in the area of Beef Production Placement, sponsored by the Iowa Cattlemen's Foundation. Stock accumulated over 3500 hours of experience with Crooked Creek Cattle Company over the past 4 years. Some of Stock's skills that were developed during her SAE include: ration formulation and balancing, artificial insemination, embryo transfer, medication administration, and pasture management. After graduation Danielle plans to attend Iowa State University with a double major in Animal Science and Genetics while pursuing a Pre-Veterinary emphasis.

The second place winner is Tate Boysen from the Wapello FFA Chapter.

The sponsor of the Beef Production-Placement Proficiency Award is Iowa Cattlemen's Foundation.

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**Proficiency Area: Dairy Production - Entrepreneurship**

State Winner: Cole Kruse

FFA Chapter: Maquoketa Valley FFA Chapter, Delhi

Description: In the area of Dairy Production Entrepreneurship sponsored by Koopman Hay and Forage, the winner is Cole Kruse of the Maquoketa Valley FFA chapter at Delhi. Kruse and his two brothers have managed to grow his herd from 16 head in 2015 to currently 36 head of dairy animals. He has focused his product on genetic improvement for his herd by exporting embryos to 8 different countries, marketing animals, and constantly increasing their value. Kruse is currently a senior at Maquoketa Valley.

The runner up in this area is Grace Howe of the Waukon FFA Chapter.

The sponsor of the Dairy Production-Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award is Koopman Hay and Forage.

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**Proficiency Area: Dairy Production - Placement**

State Winner: Collin Costello

FFA Chapter: North Scott FFA Chapter, Eldridge

Description: The winner in the area of Dairy Production Placement sponsored by Koopman Hay and Forage is Collin Costello of the North Scott FFA Chapter at Eldridge. Costello has invested over 7,500 hours during high school working with and managing cattle on his family dairy farm. Costello performs all aspects of dairy farm work, including working with computer record systems and operating their robotic milker. He has worked extensively on cow nutrition to raise average milk production from 50 lbs per cow in 2014 to 75 lbs per cow in 2017. Costello is currently a senior at North Scott and is serving as chapter President.

The runner up in Dairy Production Placement is Adam Hansmann of the Boyden-Hull FFA Chapter at Hull.

The sponsor of the Dairy Production-Placement Proficiency Award is Koopman Hay and Forage.

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## **Iowa FFA Association - 6**

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### **Proficiency Area:      **Diversified Agricultural Production****

State Winner:      Benjamin Carlson

FFA Chapter:      Central Plains FFA Chapter, Gowrie

Description:      Benjamin Carlson of the Central Plains FFA Chapter at Gowrie is the winner in the area of Diversified Agricultural Production. Carlson put in over 600 hours per year working for his family farm. He also works with 13 acres of crop production and manages 9 head of beef cattle. Through his SAE, Carlson has learned skills in handling livestock and management of large projects. After graduation, Carlson plans to attend Iowa State University to study Agronomy.

Adam Cheney from Montezuma FFA placed second.

The sponsor of the Diversified Agricultural Production Proficiency Award is Hertz Farm Management.

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### **Proficiency Area:      **Diversified Crop Production - Placement****

State Winner:      Jared Little

FFA Chapter:      Montezuma FFA Chapter

Description:      In the area of Diversified Crop Production Placement sponsored by Legend Seeds, the winner is Jared Little from the Montezuma FFA Chapter. Little works for Cummings Farms where his major project is managing 200 acres of hay crop. After beginning his work with Cummings Farms, Little was able to increase the hay production by a quarter of a ton per cutting per acre. He has also learned when and how to spray crops as well as when to mow and bale forage crops. In the future, Little hopes to become a full time employee of Cummings Farms and continue his education in agricultural production.

The second place winner is Jaden Cline from the Central Plains FFA Chapter at Gowrie.

The sponsor of the Diversified Crop Production-Placement Proficiency Award is Legend Seeds.

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### **Proficiency Area:      **Diversified Horticulture****

State Winner:      Lauren Aird

FFA Chapter:      West Liberty FFA Chapter

Description:      The winner in the area of Diversified Horticulture, sponsored by the Mid-Prairie FFA, is Lauren Aird of the West Liberty FFA Chapter. Aird has put in nearly 900 hours managing and operating the West Liberty Agriculture Department's greenhouse, sales, garden, and more. Her work visibly paid off each year when the sales increased by 20% and the horticulture facilities expanded. Aird's work in advertising, using bilingual advertisements, increased outreach by 38.7%. Aird plans to study plant biology at University of Iowa in fall of 2018.

The runner up is Morgan Carstenson from the Central Plains FFA Chapter.

The sponsor of the Diversified Horticulture Proficiency Award is the Mid-Prairie FFA Chapter.

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### **Proficiency Area:      **Diversified Livestock Production****

State Winner:      Lydia Martins

FFA Chapter:      Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter, Fairbank

Description:      Lydia Martins of the Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter at Fairbank is the winner in the Diversified Livestock Production, sponsored by Kent. Martins worked 1,555 hours during the past 3 years for Martins Farms along with establishing and growing her own livestock of 6 head of beef cattle, 6 head breeding meat goats and 58 laying hens. Time and marketing management are two of the greatest skills she has learned. Martins' plans including attending college to obtain a degree in Agriculture Law.

The second place winner is Jaden Anderson of the Decorah FFA Chapter.

The sponsor of the Diversified Livestock Production Proficiency Award is Ken.

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## **Iowa FFA Association - 7**

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### **Proficiency Area: Environmental Science and Natural Resources Management**

State Winner: Michael McDermott

FFA Chapter: Cascade FFA Chapter

Description: The winner in the area of Environmental Science and Natural Resources Management, sponsored by Iowa Trappers Association, is Michael McDermott of the Cascade FFA Chapter. McDermott has developed a farm pond with his family. The pond has been monitored for leaks and stocked with sunfish and bass. Upon graduation McDermott plans to attend college and start his own business.

The sponsor of the Environmental Science and Natural Resources Management Proficiency Award is Iowa Trappers Association.

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### **Proficiency Area: Equine Science - Entrepreneurship**

State Winner: Hanna Schmitt

FFA Chapter: South Winneshiek FFA Chapter, Calmar

Description: The winner in the area of Equine Science Entrepreneurship, sponsored by the Iowa State University Block and Bridle Club, is Hanna Schmitt of the South Winneshiek FFA Chapter at Calmar. Through Schmitt's business she gave over 45 riding lessons during the summer of 2017 along. Schmitt's involvement in her SAE projects has helped her learn more in the areas of pasture management, communication, and health management.

The runner up for Equine Entrepreneurship is Marissa Furstenberg of the Nashua Plainfield chapter.

The sponsor of the Equine Science-Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award is the Iowa State University Block and Bridle Club.

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### **Proficiency Area: Equine Science - Placement**

State Winner: Erica Mehlhaus

School: Boone A&M FFA Chapter

Description: Erica Melhaus of the Boone A&M FFA Chapter is the winner in the area of Equine Science Placement, sponsored by the Iowa Horse Council. Melhaus has dedicated over 1600 hours in 2017 alone to training horses at her university. Her greatest accomplishment, so far, is developing confidence in her ability to train and fit a horse for breed shows. Melhaus is currently attending the University of Findlay in Ohio where she is learning from the top horse trainers in the country.

The second place winner is Natalie Palmersheim of the Edgewood-Colesburg FFA Chapter.

The sponsor of the Equine Science-Placement Proficiency Award is Iowa Horse Council.

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### **Proficiency Area: Fiber and/or Oil Crop Production**

State Winner: Nathan Zumbach

FFA Chapter: North Linn FFA Chapter, Troy Mills

Description: Nathan Zumbach of the North Linn FFA Chapter at Troy Mills is the first place winner in the area of Fiber/Oil Crop Production, sponsored by Iowa Soybean Association & the Soybean Checkoff. Zumbach has invested countless hours in managing nearly 750 acres on his family's farm. He has acquired skills in marketing, drone usage, operating equipment, and training other employees. Nathan will be attending Iowa State University in the fall to study Agronomy with a minor in Agricultural Studies.

The second place winner is Joel Lambert of the Central Plains FFA Chapter.

The sponsor of the Fiber and/or Oil Crop Production Proficiency Award is the Iowa Soybean Association and the Soybean Checkoff.

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## **Iowa FFA Association - 8**

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### **Proficiency Area: Food Science and Technology**

State Winner: Dana De Smet

FFA Chapter: West Lyon FFA Chapter, Inwood

Description: Dana DeSmet of the West Lyon FFA Chapter at Inwood is the winner in the area of Food Science and Technology, sponsored by Hy-Vee, Inc. DeSmet has worked over 1,000 hours at Larchwood Food Center where she learned to package produce and rotate goods to give customers the best products. She learned customer service skills and responsibility.

The runner up in this area is Whitney Clemens of the Cascade FFA Chapter.

The sponsor of the Food Science and Technology Proficiency Award is Hy-Vee, Inc.

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### **Proficiency Area: Forage Production**

State Winner: Cassidy Bohr

FFA Chapter: North Fayette Valley FFA Chapter, West Union

Description: Cassidy Bohr of the North Fayette Valley FFA Chapter at West Union is the winner in the area of Forage Production, sponsored by Caterpillar Dealers of Iowa – Altorfer and Ziegler. Bohr has over six hundred placement hours on her family’s farm and also rents 26 acres of her own. She has developed skills working with chemicals, understanding forage quality standards, and implementing integrated pest management. Bohr plans to attend Iowa State University to major in Agriculture Education. Her long term goal is to become an agricultural educator or work in agribusiness.

The second place winner is Michael Droeszler of the Cascade FFA Chapter.

The sponsor of the Forage Production Proficiency Award is Caterpillar Dealers of Iowa – Altorfer and Ziegler.

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### **Proficiency Area: Forest Management and Products**

State Winner: Jacob Joerger

FFA Chapter: Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter, Fairbank

Description: In the area of Forest Management & Products, sponsored by MinnTex Citrus Inc, the winner is Jacob Joerger of the Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter at Fairbank. Joerger works at the Wapsie Pines Christmas Tree Farm where he plants, stakes, and moves trees. He assists with wreath and rope construction. Joerger plans to continue his education in forestry.

Brendan Lovstuen of the Decorah FFA Chapter received second.

The sponsor of the Forest Management and Products Proficiency Award MinnTex Citrus, Inc. Minnesota.

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### **Proficiency Area: Fruit Production**

State Winner: Megan Blauwet

School: West Lyon FFA Chapter, Inwood

Description: Megan Blauwet of the West Lyon FFA Chapter at Inwood is the winner in the area of Fruit Production, sponsored by 4 Seasons Fundraising. Blauwet has logged 165 hours in the past year producing grapes. She combined, leaf pulled, shoot pulled, applied fertilizer, taped, and set up bird nesting. Megan plans on attending Iowa State University.

The runner up in this area is Keegan Kehrli from the East Buchanan FFA Chapter.

The sponsor of the Fruit Production Proficiency Award is 4 Seasons Fundraising.

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## **Iowa FFA Association - 9**

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### **Proficiency Area:      **Goat Production****

State Winner:      Britney Hershey

School:              Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter, Fairbank

Description:      Brittney Hershey of the Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter is the winner in the area of Goat Production, sponsored by Iowa Meat Goat Association. Hershey is currently raising 19 meat goats in her operation. A large part of her project is focusing on genetics and high quality goats for resale and show. Hershey spends time taking care of her goats to keep them healthy. Hershey has overcome challenges and prospered in her business and marketing plans. After graduation Brittney plans to enter into a medical field potentially at Hawkeye Community college.

The second place winner is Kabe Boysen of the Wapello FFA Chapter.

The sponsor of the Goat Production Proficiency Award is the Iowa Meat Goat Association.

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### **Proficiency Area:      **Grain Production - Entrepreneurship****

State Winner:      Cale Pellett

FFA Chapter:      Atlantic FFA Chapter

Description:      Our winner in the area of Grain Production Entrepreneurship, sponsored, by the Iowa Crop Improvement Association is Cale Pellett of the Atlantic FFA Chapter. Pellett has 47.6 acres of corn in production. Through his SAE, Pellett has learned how to crop scout, market grain, and operate planting and harvesting equipment. Within the next five years, Pellett plans to buy more of his own land to farm.

Jordan Balderston of the Alburnett FFA Chapter received second.

The sponsor of the Grain Production-Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award is Iowa Crop Improvement Association.

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### **Proficiency Area:      **Grain Production - Placement****

State Winner:      Quinn Mogler

FFA Chapter:      West Lyon FFA Chapter, Inwood

Description:      In the area of Grain Production Placement Sponsored by Heartland Co-op, the winner is Quinn Mogler of the West Lyon FFA Chapter at Inwood. Mogler has earned over \$4,700 while operating, working, and managing his family's grain elevator. He performs daily tasks including scale operation, moisture testing and provides excellent customer service.

The runner up in this area is Carson Brincks of the South Winneshiek FFA Chapter.

The sponsor of the Grain Production-Placement Proficiency Award is Heartland Co-Op.

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### **Proficiency Area:      **Home and/or Community Development****

State Winner:      Ashley Armstrong

FFA Chapter:      Montezuma FFA Chapter

Description:      The winner in the area of Home and Community Development sponsored by Monsanto, is Ashley Armstrong of Montezuma. Armstrong has volunteered over 200 hours, with a passion for mission work, especially Heifer International. She has Raised funds for many non-profits including Samaritan's Purse and disaster relief. In addition, she leads vacation bible study groups. Armstrong currently serves on her church council and mission outreach committee. She plans on attending Dordt College with a minor in Community Development.

The runner up is Anna Mae Roseland of the Midland FFA Chapter at Wyoming.

The sponsor of the Home and/or Community Development Proficiency Award is Monsanto.

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## **Iowa FFA Association - 10**

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### **Proficiency Area:      **Landscape Management****

State Winner:            Garrett Lauer

FFA Chapter:            North Fayette Valley FFA Chapter, West Union

Description:            Garrett Lauer of the West Union FFA Chapter is the champion of the Landscape Management sponsored by the North Linn FFA Chapter. Lauer has invested over 1,200 hours working in the Banuly Tree Service and Concrete Business. He performs equipment maintenance, tree service, pruning, stump grinding, and tree chipping then uses the wood chips as mulch. Each year he has increased his hours worked and tasks performed. Upon Graduation Lauer plans to attend a local college and return to the family tree and concrete business and invest in some cattle.

The second place winner is Ethan Orr of the Midland FFA Chapter at Wyoming.

The sponsor of the Landscape Management Proficiency Award is the North Linn FFA Chapter.

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### **Proficiency Area:      **Organic Agriculture****

State Winner:            Brady Hageman

FFA Chapter:            Cascade FFA

Description:            Brady Hageman of South Winneshiek FFA at Calmar is the winner of the Organic Agriculture Award, sponsored by J. Ward Organics LLC. Hageman has spent over 800 hours working at S & C Organic Poultry Farm. Hageman works with his family to raise over 600,000 broiler birds and 40,000 organic laying hens. During his SAE, he developed skills in organic methods for poultry health and marketing eggs. Hageman is currently a sophomore at South Winneshiek High School.

Second place in this category goes to Mitchell Klostermann of the North Linn FFA Chapter at Troy Mills.

The sponsor of the Organic Agriculture Award is J. Ward Organics LLC.

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### **Proficiency Area:      **Poultry Production****

State Winner:            Andrew Schechinger

FFA Chapter:            Harlan FFA Chapter

Description:            In the area of Poultry Production sponsored by the Iowa Poultry Association, the winner is Andrew Schechinger of the Harlan FFA Chapter. Schechinger began his SAE project with 100 laying hens and has grown it to 1500 layers. He has invested in a 30x50 hoop building for his flock and purchased an egg washer to make his enterprise more efficient. Marketing his eggs with local stores and a distributor has been a major accomplishment. He has become a licensed egg handler in both Iowa and Nebraska.

The runner up in this area is Kiley Metzger of the Central Lyon at Rock Rapids.

The sponsor of the Poultry Production Proficiency Award is the Iowa Poultry Association.

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### **Proficiency Area:      **Sheep Production****

State Winner:            Alex Crow

FFA Chapter:            Starmont FFA Chapter , Arlington

Description:            The winner in the area of the Sheep Production, sponsored by the Iowa Club Lamb Association, is Alex Crow from the Starmont FFA Chapter at Arlington. Crow has increased his flock to 21 breeding ewe and one ram. He performs constant ration development, environmental control of lambing, herd health and animal breeding readiness. Crow says his goal is to increase his flock size to 100 breeding ewes.

The runner up in this area is Heather Geiger from the Lone Tree FFA Chapter.

The sponsor of the Sheep Production Proficiency Award is the Iowa Club Lamb Association.

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## **Iowa FFA Association - 11**

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### **Proficiency Area: Small Animal Production and Care**

**State Winner:** Madison McCarl

**FFA Chapter:** Southeast Polk FFA Chapter, Pleasant Hill

**Description:** Madison McCarl of the Southeast Polk FFA Chapter at Pleasant Hill is the winner in the area of Small Animal Production and Care, sponsored by Diamond Animal Health. McCarl has worked 623 hours as the Coat of Many Colors Dog Kennel Manager, caring for as many as 57 dogs, including litters of puppies. She has been responsible for the care, feeding, and grooming of dogs, as well as maintaining their health. Madison plans to pursue a career as a large animal veterinarian, she hopes to own and manage her own clinic someday.

The second place winner is Hannah Folkerts of the Waverly-Shell Rock FFA Chapter.

The sponsor of the Small Animal Production and Care Proficiency Award is Diamond Animal Health.

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### **Proficiency Area: Specialty Animal Production**

**State Winner:** Nichalos Welter

**FFA Chapter:** Cascade FFA Chapter, Cascade

**Description:** In the area of Specialty Animal Production sponsored by Sonny Deke, the winner is Nichalos Welter of the Cascade FFA Chapter. An experienced beekeeper, Welter harvests and sells honey from his beehives. In 2017, he harvested and sold 140 pounds of honey off his five hives. He has learned how to split hives, overwinter them, and control disease safely. Thirteen of Welter's hives produced 53 pounds of honey each, which is 13 pounds above the national average. Nick plans to pursue Agronomy and Seed Science at Iowa State University and then return to his family's farm to raise cattle and bees.

The second place winner is Ryan Miller of the North Linn FFA Chapter at Troy Mills.

The sponsor of the Specialty Animal Production Proficiency Award is Sonny Deke.

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### **Proficiency Area: Specialty Crop Production**

**State Winner:** Tatum Kahler

**FFA Chapter:** North Fayette Valley FFA Chapter, West Union

**Description:** Tatum Kahler, of the North Fayette Valley FFA chapter at West Union, is the winner in the area of Specialty Crop Production sponsored by the DeWitt Central FFA Alumni. Kahler produces pumpkins yearly on her family farm. In 2017, she diversified her crop by putting an additional one acre of gourds into production. Kahler plans to increase production by as much as twice for the next growing season.

The runner up is Emily Van Regenmorter of the West Lyon chapter at Inwood.

The sponsor of the Specialty Crop Production Proficiency Award is the DeWitt Central FFA Alumni.

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## **Iowa FFA Association - 12**

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### **Proficiency Area: Swine Production - Entrepreneurship**

State Winner: John Trumm

FFA Chapter: Cascade FFA Chapter, Cascade

Description: John Trumm, of the Cascade FFA Chapter is the winner in the area of Swine Production Entrepreneurship, sponsored by the Iowa Pork Producers Association. Trumm works in partnership with his brothers and owns 95% of their operation. He raises 100 sows and sells his pigs as show pigs and feeder pigs. His operation includes pasture-farrowing his sows in a 5 acre pasture with 45 huts. Trumm's pigs are farrowed in pens during the winter to maintain requirements to be raised as all natural pork. Through his SAE, Trumm enriched his skills in record keeping and communication.

The second place winner is Emily Harold of the West Branch FFA Chapter.

The sponsor of the Swine Production-Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award is the Iowa Pork Producers Association.

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### **Proficiency Area: Swine Production - Placement**

State Winner: Dayra Knoblock

FFA Chapter: West Lyon FFA Chapter, Inwood

Description: Dayra Knoblock of the West Lyon Chapter at Inwood is the winner in the area of Swine Production Placement sponsored by Hog Slat- Midwest Division. Knoblock works for JPT Focus Farms where she has logged almost 1,000 hours. There she assists with everything from vaccination to feeding and record keeping to castration. Upon Graduation Knoblock plans to attend South Dakota State University and major in Architecture.

Josh Bartling from the AGWSR FFA Chapter at Ackley is the runner up in this area.

The sponsor of the Swine Production-Placement Proficiency Award is Hog Slat – Midwest Division.

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### **Proficiency Area: Turfgrass Management**

State Winner: Collin Witte

FFA Chapter: West Fork FFA Chapter, Sheffield

Description: In the area of Turfgrass Management sponsored by the Iowa Turfgrass Institute, the winner is Collin Witte from the West Fork FFA Chapter at Sheffield. Witte began with seven residential lawns and has expanded to one large commercial property and seven residential lawns He regularly maintains his equipment and has expanded his machinery and lawn care equipment line. Upon graduation Witte plans to pursue a career in the lawn care business, along with getting a welding certificate and farming part time.

Wyatt Mohr from the Mediapolis FFA Chapter received second in this area.

The sponsor of the Turf Grass Management Proficiency Award is Iowa Turfgrass Institute.

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### **Proficiency Area: Vegetable Production**

State Winner: Madeline Samson

FFA Chapter: Diamond Trail FFA Chapter, Monroe

Description: The winner in the area of Vegetable Production, sponsored by 4 Seasons Fundraising, is Madeline Samson of the Diamond Trail FFA Chapter at Monroe. Samson has over a year of vegetable production where she has worked a total of 916 hours in her garden. She has learned how difficult it can be to work with nature while raising a quality vegetable crop. After graduation, Samson plans to attend college to major in agronomy.

Kristen Baier from the ADM FFA Chapter is the runner up in this area.

The sponsor of the Vegetable Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement Proficiency Award is 4 Seasons Fundraising.

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### **Iowa FFA Association - 13**

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**Proficiency Area:      **Veterinary Science****

State Winner:      Zach Briggs

FFA Chapter:      Albia FFA Chapter, Albia

Description:      Zach Briggs of the Albia FFA chapter is the winner in the area of Veterinary Science sponsored by the Iowa State University Pre-Vet Club. Briggs is a graduate of the Albia High School and has been involved in many local and state events. Briggs works at the Albia Animal Clinic for his SAE, where he has spent much of his time focusing on beef cattle reproduction and health. Briggs also plays a crucial role on emergency calls where he assists with dystocia cases and C-Sections. Briggs has significantly improved his record keeping skills and knowledge of Veterinary medicine which he has applied to his own 21 head cattle project

The second place winner is Madison Kovarna from the Hinton FFA Chapter.

The sponsor of the Veterinary Science - Entrepreneurship/Placement Proficiency Award is the Iowa State University Pre-Vet Club.

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**Proficiency Area:      **Wildlife Production and Management****

State Winner:      Hunter Crawford

School:      Brokaw FFA Chapter, Clarinda

Description:      In the area of Wildlife Production & Management sponsored by the Iowa Division Izaak Walton League, the winner is Hunter Crawford of the Brokaw FFA Chapter at Clarinda. Hunter worked on his father's 700 acres to develop and improve wildlife habitat. He also planted and managed fifteen food plots. Hunter helped establish 250 acres of CRP under the quail habitat initiative. After graduation Hunter plans to attend Iowa State University Majoring in Ag Business.

Mitchell Redmond is the second place winner from the Cascade FFA Chapter.

The sponsor of the Wildlife Production and Management Proficiency Award is the Iowa Division Izaak Walton League.